Laboratory Write-ups

The lab write-up should be done with seven subheadings as outlined below. The Purpose (objective), Hypothesis, and Procedure should be completed before the lab period. When conducting an experiment using the scientific procedure, some data may be collected in rough form. You may need to transfer this data to a proper data chart in your final write up.



Title

Purpose: This is the problem you are evaluating. Make a brief statement about what you are trying to discover or find out.

Hypothesis: This is a statement of what you think will happen based on your experiences. This should be a tentative answer to the problem posed in the purpose, and will either be proved or disproved by the results of the activity. No marks will be deducted for stating a hypothesis that does not agree with what you will discover in the activity, but they must be statements that make sense.

Materials: List of all materials used during the lab.

Procedure: This is a description of the steps to be followed to complete the activity. Diagrams of the experimental apparatus (if required) may be included here. If you are given a handout of the procedure, or if the procedure is in the textbook, you may indicate this by writing "see handout" or "see textbook" instead of writing out the procedure.

Data / observations: If measurements or any other kind of quantitative information has been collected, these will be listed here. They are usually in the form of chart or table. Use a ruler to make your tables. If qualitative observations are made, these will also be included under this heading. A single sample calculation must be included for each calculation type when calculations are done, but you do not need to show all work for all values.

Discussion: In this section, you interpret your results in terms of what you know or what is in the text or other references. In most cases this will take the form of answering questions in the lab material.

Conclusion: This is a statement indicating if your hypothesis is correct or incorrect. If your hypothesis is well written, you should have no difficulty in writing a meaningful conclusion. A list of experimental errors is often included in this section.



And finally . . .

- Title is centered at the top of the sheet
- Your name and date is in the top right corner.
- Your lab partner's name(s) are included below your name
- All headings should be clearly separated
- Be neat, accurate, and complete
- Using a computer to produce your Final laboratory write-ups is preferred, but neat, handwritten lab reports are also acceptable

- Check spelling and grammar. Use proper numerical units